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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/942,641	08/31/2001	Hisashi Ohki	1614.1186	8812
21171	7590	05/03/2005	EXAMINER	
			WU, XIAO MIN	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2674

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/942,641	OHKI ET AL.	
Examiner		Art Unit	
XIAO M. WU		2674	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Viletto (US Patent No. 5,475,626) in view of Qureshey et al. (Pub. No. US 2002/0002039).

As to claims 1, 5, 7, Viletto discloses an electronic equipment (Fig. 1), comprising: a main display section (37); a lid (33) selectively moveable between an opened position in which the main and auxiliary display sections are visible and closed position in which the main display section is not visible but the auxiliary section remains visible (see Fig. 1 and 2), an auxiliary display section (46) which displays status information (col. 2, lines 47-54) of the electronic equipment; a plurality of buttons (97, Fig. 2, also see col. 3, lines 62-66) provided below the auxiliary display section such that the buttons can be actuated by an operator in order to reset

some of the operational states of computer 31, when the lid 33 is in the closed configuration.

Viletto further discloses a controller (92, Fig. 3, also see col. 3, lines 53-58) transmits signals to the mode indicator 46 so that it may display alphanumeric characters to represent the limited operation states preset by the circuit 92.

It is noted that Viletto does not specifically teach the controller which displays definitions or meaning of the plurality of buttons, within the auxiliary display section at positions corresponding to each of the plurality of buttons, depending on an operation mode of the electronic equipment. Qureshey is cited to teach a display device comprising a controller which displays definitions or meaning (1830, 1832, 1834, 1836, 1838, Fig. 18B) of the plurality of buttons (1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825), within the display section at positions (1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845) corresponding to each of the plurality of buttons, depending on an operation mode (e.g. 1804, 1806, 1810, 1812 of Figs. 18B), respectively of the electronic equipment. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the controller of the Viletto with the features of the meaning of the keys corresponding to the display sections as taught by Viletto so that the user can input more functions with limited number of keys.

As to claim 2, Qureshey discloses the plurality of buttons include one mode selection button (page 15, pp [0167] which instructs the operation mode, and a plurality of application buttons (1821-1825) having instructing contents which differ depending on the operation mode (see Fig. 18B, 18D).

As to claim 3, it is noted that Qureshey discloses that the plurality of buttons (1821-1825) are all provided below the auxiliary display section (1841-1845).

As to claims 4, 6 and 8, Qureshey discloses the operation mode includes at least two modes such as a portable recording medium (1854, Fig. 18G) and a news mode (1821, Fig. 20B).

As to claims 9, 14, 19, Viletto discloses the plurality of buttons are exposed when the lid is closed (see Fig. 2).

As to claims 10, 15, 20, Viletto discloses that another auxiliary display section (e.g. the main display including display sections) that is covered by the lid (33) when the lid is closed.

As to claims 11, 16, 21, Viletto discloses a main body provided with the plurality buttons (97) and accommodating the controller, the lid member being pivotally mounted on the main body and another auxiliary display section (46) that is provided on the main body (41).

As to claims 12, 17, 22, Viletto discloses a main body (41) and the lid (33) being mounted to the main body for rotation between the opened and closed positions thereof.

As to claims 13, 18, 24Viletto discloses the main display (37) is mounted on a main surface of the lid, in the closed position of the lid, opposes a corresponding main surface of the main body.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to XIAO M. WU whose telephone number is 571 272-7761. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, PATRICK EDOUARD, can be reached on 571 272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

X.W.

May 2, 2005



XIAO M. WU
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2674